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NAVY NEWS

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March 14, 1997



Sailors aboard the Chinese destroyer *Harbin* (DD 112) enjoy a warm welcome from Americans at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The Chinese port visit is the first U.S. port visit in eight years. (U.S. Navy photo by PH2 (NAC) Jeffrey S. Viano) see story pg. 2

CNO in Australia for *Tandem Thrust*



AUSTRALIA (NNS)— Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson is in Australia this week visiting units participating in a major military exercise with Australian forces and meeting with Australian defense officials. The trip is Johnson's first to Australia since assuming duties as the Navy's top ranking officer.

CNO will observe aspects of Exercise *Tandem Thrust* which involves more than 28,000 troops, 250 aircraft and 40 ships. It is being held on land and off shore in northeast Australia from March 1 to 22, to train 7th Fleet

and Australian Defense Force staffs in crisis action planning and contingency response operations.

Tandem Thrust '97 is the fourth in a series of exercises that began in 1990. This year's is the first with Australian forces and the first to use Australia's Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA).

The exercise will include carrier battle group and amphibious ready group operations, amphibious landings, live fire exercises, ground maneuvers and parachute landings.

MCPON testifies about quality of life

by JOC Cleve Hardman, Public
Affairs Assistant to the MCPON

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, ETCM(SW) John Hagan, and the senior enlisted leaders of the other armed services, recently appeared before the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction (MILCON) to discuss quality of life issues.

The MILCON subcommittee plays a major role in deciding how much the government will spend on building and maintaining family housing, bachelor quarters, and child development centers.

"Navy's MILCON needs must be prioritized to meet the specific, unique needs of Sailors with a special emphasis on single Sailors serving at sea and living on ships," MCPON Hagan told the committee. "We have issues that are difficult to overcome so we simply must do better at providing home port pier side facilities for Sailors who endure the most arduous sea-intensive careers."

Hagan urged the committee to give special consideration to the difficult life faced by Sailors at sea. To illustrate this point, he displayed a series of photographs of crews berthing onboard USS *George Washington* (CVN-73) and USS *John Stennis* (CVN-74).

"This committee has recognized the difficult life faced by Sailors living onboard ships," MCPON said. "You have spearheaded efforts to change the law to allow single shipboard Sailors in pay grade E6 to move into the barracks or draw housing allowances. By July 1 this year, E5's will also have that opportunity."

"Sailors at the deck plate level

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MCPON continued from page 1

understand the tightness of the budget and the difficulty of making budget choices," he said.

Hagan also emphasized the need to recognize and eliminate remaining inequities in the laws guiding our pay and allowances and to explore every possible opportunity to provide for single Sailor initiatives.

Chinese navy ships to visit Pearl Harbor

by JOC(SW) Jim DeAngio

Naval Base Pearl Harbor Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NWSA) — In the midst of a rare eastern Pacific cruise, three People's Republic of China Navy ships arrived at Pearl Harbor March 9, for a four-day visit.

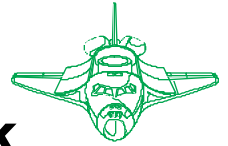
Festivities for the destroyers *Harbin* (DDG 112) and *Zhuhai* (DDG 166) and the oiler *Nanchang* (AO 953) included a welcoming ceremony, a sports picnic, ship tours, receptions, a wreath-laying ceremony and a combined band concert.

Crew members from three U.S. host ships, USS *Ingersoll* (DD 990), USS *John S. McCain* (DDG 56) and USS *Cimarron* (AO 177) participated in reciprocal ship visits and familiarization training, commonly referred to as "cross-decking."

The three ships depart Thursday and sail next to San Diego where they'll visit March 21 to 25.

The last visit by a PRC Navy ship to a U.S. port was in 1989 when the training vessel *Zheng He* pulled into Pearl Harbor.

Navy astronaut honored at Black Engineer of the Year awards ceremony



WASHINGTON (NWSA) -- A Navy astronaut was honored recently at the Black Engineer of the Year awards conference in Baltimore.

CAPT Winston E. Scott received the Black Engineer's Professional Achievement in Government Award. Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jay L. Johnson made the presentation.

Although he majored in music at Florida State University, Scott had always dreamed of flying in space. After graduation he visited an Air Force recruiter. While in the waiting room, however, a magazine article told him the majority of astronauts were naval aviators and that headed him to the Navy recruiter. After earning his master's degree in aeronautical engineering at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School he began flying helicopters and later switched to the F-14 Tomcat.

During his career, Scott has logged more than 3,000 hours in 20 different military and civilian aircraft and served as a test pilot. In 1992, he was one of four African-Americans to be selected by NASA to become an American astronaut. In 1995 Scott flew more than 200 hours in space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor, including a space-walk of more than six hours.

The Navy has been a strong supporter of the Black Engineer of the Year Awards since the program began in 1987. Many major engineering companies participate in the program as sponsors or attendees. More than 7,000 people attended this year's conference.



NAVNEWS

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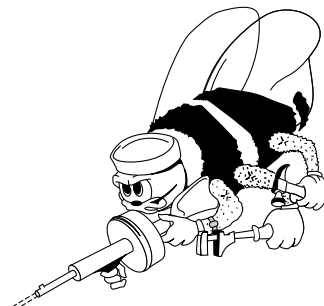
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THIS WEEK IN NAVY HISTORY

March 5, 1942 — "Seabee" name and insignia authorized.



VA publishes new handbook

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The latest edition of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" is now available from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Published by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the handbook has been revised to include changes in laws for 1997.

The 87-page handbook describes federal benefits for veterans and family members including medical care, education, disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. It also outlines claims procedures and includes the latest information on changes in eligibility for VA medical care.

"Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" sells for \$5.50 a copy, but is available free via the Internet <<http://www.va.gov/benefits.htm>>.

Addresses and phone numbers of all VA benefits offices, medical centers, national cemeteries, counseling centers and other VA facilities are listed.

2nd Fleet holds JTFEX 97-2

OFF COAST OF CAROLINAS (NWSA) — More than 20,000 service members from all branches of the armed forces are participating in Joint Task Force Exercise 97-2 from March 6 to 25 off the Carolina coast.

Participants in JTFEX 97-2 include the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) Carrier Battle Group and the USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) Amphibious Ready Group; elements of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Unit; elements of the Army's 18th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division and 18th Aviation Brigade; the Air Force's Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command; the U.S. Special Operations Command; the U.S. Space Command; the Coast Guard and a Canadian Maritime Force.

"This exercise prepares our carrier battle group and amphibious readiness group to forward deploy and conduct joint operations with the Army, Air Force and coalition forces anywhere, anytime and with virtually no notice," said VADM Vern Clark, Commander, 2nd Fleet and Commander, Joint Task Force 950. "We are molding and shaping our battle forces to deal with an uncertain world. Our deployed naval forces will be ready to provide the critical operational link between peacetime operations and developing crises enhanced with the ability to integrate joint and combined operations."

To order, ask for GPO stock number 051-000-00212-1 from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-76954. To order with VISA or Mastercard call (202) 512-1800.



Status of the Navy



Personnel: 403,341 active duty; 234,858 ready reserves; 213,048 civilians

Aircraft: 4,754

Ships: 351

At Sea: 179 ships (51%)

Deployed: 101 ships (28%)

Personnel Deployed: 47,343

Exercises: 5

Port Visits: 10

SSNs at Sea: 40 (54%)

Carriers/Air Wings at Sea:

USS *Kitty Hawk*/CVW-11: port visit, Fremantle, Australia

USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW-3: port visit, Rhodes, Greece

USS *Abraham Lincoln*: CQ, eastern Pacific

USS *Independence*: transit, western Pacific

USS *John F. Kennedy*: JTFEX 97-2, western Atlantic

USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*: local ops, western Atlantic

USS *George Washington*: local ops, western Atlantic

LHAs/LHDs/LPHs at Sea:

USS *Essex*/11th MEU: port visit, Sydney, Australia

USS *Nassau*/26th MEU: inport Valletta, Malta

USS *New Orleans*: transit, western Pacific

USS *Kearsarge*: JTFEX 97-2, western Atlantic

USS *Guam*: local ops, western Atlantic

Ships Assigned to Middle East Force: USS *Ardent*,

USS *Dextrous*, USS *Nicholson*, USS *Halyburton*, USS

Hamilton, USS *Leftwich*, USS *Fletcher*

Other Exercises/Operations:

Operation *Southern Watch*, Arabian Gulf

Maritime Interception Ops, Arabian Gulf

Counter Drug Ops, Caribbean/eastern Pacific

Tandem Thrust 97, western Pacific

Iron Siren, Arabian Gulf

Navy ELF shows you the money

by LT Tony De Alicante Office of the Judge Advocate General

WASHINGTON (NNS)—Mid-way into the 1997 tax filing season, the Navy's Electronic Income Tax Filing program (ELF) has already surpassed the total number of tax returns filed for Sailors in 1996. With six weeks to go in this year's stateside tax season, the 119 Navy ELF sites have already filed over 53,000 ELF returns compared with 45,000 returns for all of the 1996 tax season.

Navy tax assessors have provided Sailors with tax assistance services worth over \$5 million and expedited \$42 million in refunds for Sailors. Navy tax assistance centers are expected to have prepared over 100,000 state and federal returns by season's end.

Feedback on the program has been overwhelmingly positive. ELF saves money for Sailors who would otherwise pay for tax preparation and electronic filing services. The average value of ELF services per return is just over \$100. In addition, the program reduces the number of tax-related problems encountered by Sailors. The accuracy rate for ELF returns is over 99.5%, thirty times better than the accuracy rate for paper returns which are handled by at least a dozen

individuals before a refund check is prepared.

Military ELF returns are transmitted via computer modem to a stateside transmitter and then retransmitted to IRS. Sailors get refunds much faster with ELF. A Sailor INCONUS who mails a paper return to IRS will wait 45 days or more before the check arrives in the mail. That same Sailor using ELF can expect that the refund will be directly deposited in his or her bank account within 9 to 15 days. Direct deposit not only takes the hassle out of dealing with the refund check, but it is particularly useful to deployed Sailors. This year, Navy has 34 shipboard ELF programs with the capability of filing ELF returns via satellite link while underway.

Navy offices sponsoring ELF programs include Naval Legal Service Offices, 34 ships, Staff Judge Advocate offices, and Family Service Centers. In addition, many ELF sites operate satellite offices at surrounding commands. Sailors should contact their nearest legal assistance office or Family Service Center to find out where ELF services are available in their area.



Pacific fleet names SOY

SAN DIEGO (NWSA) — Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet has announced its Sea, Shore and Reserve Sailors of the Year for 1996.

Quartermaster 1st Class (SW) George J. Ezell was selected as the Sea Sailor of the Year. He is assigned to USS *Merrill* (DD 976), homeported in San Diego.

Construction Mechanic 1st Class (SCW) Derrick S. Maloney is SURFPAC's Shore Sailor of the Year. He is assigned to Assault Craft Unit 5 located at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Hull Technician 1st Class (DV) Gregory P. Hejko was named the Reserve Sailor of the Year. He is assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 7 at Naval Station San Diego.

Team Spirit canceled

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The governments of the Republic of Korea and the United States have decided not to hold the Team Spirit exercise in 1997.

The decision takes into account the recent overall security situation on the Korean Peninsula and will have no impact on the defense readiness of the ROK-U.S. forces on the peninsula.

The Department of Defense said the decision to cancel Team Spirit is part of efforts by the two governments to build confidence and to create an atmosphere conducive to the reduction of tensions on the peninsula.

USS Cowpens shines during Exercise Inspired Alert

by ENS Chad Sloan

INDIAN OCEAN (NWSA) — USS *Cowpens* (CG 63) recently participated in Exercise *Inspired Alert* off the coast of Pakistan.

Held in conjunction with Pakistan's military, the exercise provided training for surface and aviation units from both nations.

The San Diego-based guided missile cruiser coordinated 380 sorties simulating bombing runs, air strikes and air-to-air combat scenarios by Carrier Air Wing 11 aircraft from USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).

According to Operations Specialist 1st Class Randy Hamilton, of Santee, Calif., the most valuable part of the exercise was the "mutual training and interaction between the United States and Pakistan." Hamilton noted that while Pakistan operates familiar aircraft and other military equipment, their tactics and maneuvers differ from those used by U.S. pilots.

RADM Wagner named Navy's 'Old Salt'

courtesy of Surface Navy Association

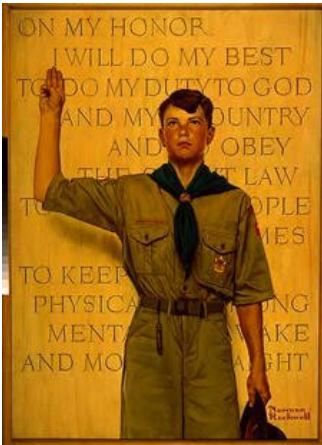
ALEXANDRIA, Va. (NWSA) — The Navy's title of "Old Salt" was passed recently to RADM George F.A. Wagner, commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). VADM Philip M. Quast relinquished the title during his retirement ceremony Feb. 14.

The "Old Salt" award is given to the longest serving surface warfare officer on continuous active duty. It was established in 1988 by the Surface Navy Association to honor the most senior surface warfare officer. The title "Old Salt" represents the ideals of the Surface Warfare Community and the values of the surface warrior.

The title is accompanied by a bronze statue depicting a World War II naval officer on the pitching deck of his ship. It is cast from metal salvaged from historic U.S. Naval ships,

most notably the battleship MAINE. Inscribed on them trophy's base are the words of ADM Arleigh Burke, "Keeper of the Seas" and "Dedicated to Service." A miniature replica of the statue is presented to each "Old Salt" when he retires from active duty.

RADM Wagner graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was commissioned an ensign in 1962. His at-sea assignments included command of USS *John Rodgers* (DD 983). Prior to assuming command of SPAWAR, Wagner played an important role in the development of the Navy's missile systems. He served as program manager of the Navy ship-launched *Tomahawk* Cruise Missile Program and was program executive officer of the cruise missile projects and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Joint programs.



Volunteers needed for National Boy Scouts of America Jamboree

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (NWSA) — Sailors are needed to volunteer their support for the 1997 National Boy Scouts Jamboree July 7 to Aug. 7 at Fort A.P. Hill, near Fredericksburg, Va.

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command is coordinating Navy participation in

the quadrennial event. The jamboree brings Boy Scouts and their adult leaders from throughout the country together for training and experience in outdoor living and related fields.

More than 250,000 scouts, leaders and visitors are expected to attend. Volunteers will man training booths at the jamboree merit badge midway. Six Sailors from the following career fields are needed to man subject-specific booths:

- Atomic energy: Nuclear qualified individuals (including at least one officer);
- Weather: Aerographer's mates, operations specialists and electronics technicians;
- Fire Safety: Qualified fire marshals, repair party leaders or damage controlmen;
- Energy: Machinist's mates, boilers technicians, engineering officers of the watch and Nuclear Power Program personnel;
- Wilderness survival: SEALS;
- Aviation: Qualified aviators (officers);
- Oceanography: Aerographer's mates, ocean systems technicians;
- Computers: Data systems technicians, data processing technicians, electronics technicians, other computer inten-

sive ratings.

Ten additional personnel are needed to support other Navy exhibits and provide security for the Navy contingent.

Commanding officers may authorize no-cost temporary additional duty orders for volunteers. Interested Sailors should submit their request, along with a command endorsement, to Commander, Navy Recruiting Command by April 30.

Summary of NAVADMINs

NAVADMIN 058/97
(DTG 072212Z MAR 97)

Navy Foreign Area (FAO) Officer program

NAVADMIN 059/97
(DTG 080022Z MAR 97)

Acquisition professional community (APC) selection board results.

NAVADMIN 060/97
(DTG 080023Z MAR 97)

Command managed equal opportunity officer training.

NAVADMIN 061/97
(DTG 090024Z MAR 97)

Linguist opportunities

"I said that one of the first obligations I felt as the new CNO would be to get out to the fleet and see how (the Sailors) were doing... I've been all over the world and reaffirmed what I thought on the front end, and that is that they are indeed operationally focused. They are very much upholding their reputations as the premier maritime force in the world. They're intensely proud of what they're doing."

— Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jay Johnson
in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee

NAVY-MARINE CORPS NEWS

Navy-Marine Corps News is a videotaped newscast generated for broadcast to Navy-Marine Corps fleet and shore units. The next Navy-Marine Corps News (program #711) includes the following stories:

- Focus on the Fleet: CNN reports on forward deployed U.S. Navy and the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* Battlegroup
- USS Independence makes historic port visit to Guam
- Sailors and Marines help Iraqi evacuees on Guam
- Annual Blessing of the Fleet slated for March 29 at Navy Memorial, Washington D.C.
- Tax Time: Volunteer Income Tax Assistants can help you file your tax return
- NTC Great Lakes Sailors work on San Diego ships before heading to "A" school
- Nurse Advice Line helps Marines and Sailors in Cherry Point, N.C.
- Opportunities for Sailors who speak a second language
- Naval Academy basketball team heads to NCAA Tournament
- Atlantic Coast Conference Mens Basketball Tournament
- Movie Call:

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If you have distribution questions contact Mr. John Morrissey at (202) 433-5844 or DSN 288-5844, or write him at the address mentioned below. All Navy-Marine Corps News tapes must be returned each week. Please use the enclosed return label.

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